

XVII.—*On the Birds of New Hanover.* By ERNST HARTERT.

(Plate III.)

THE Ornithology of New Hanover, an island situated to the westward of the Gazelle Peninsula of New Ireland, 37 miles in length by about 20 miles in breadth, and averaging in height from about 1000 to 2000 feet above the sea, is practically unknown. It was therefore of considerable interest to the naturalists of the Tring Museum to receive collections from there which had been brought together by Captain Cayley Webster. It fell to my lot to examine the bird-skins, and I have given a list of the species in the appendix to Captain Webster's book 'Through New Guinea' (London, Fisher Unwin, 1898), pages 369 to 375. Captain Webster's collection, although of considerable interest, is very deficient in smaller birds, but several highly interesting and even new birds show what an amount of ornithological work remains still to be done in New Hanover. It is evident that there are some differences between the faunas of New Hanover and New Britain, although, of course, the majority of the forms are the same.

The following are the more interesting species of which we received examples :—

EDOLIOSOMA REMOTUM Sharpe.

Also known from New Ireland and Duke of York Peninsula.

GRAUCALUS SCLATERI Salvad. (ex Finsch's MS.).

Described from New Ireland.

PACHYCEPHALA FINSCI Reichenow.

On p. 370 in Capt. Webster's book I mentioned this form as *P. melanura*, being misled by Prof. Reichenow's description, as a new species, of *P. dahl*, which is really the same as *P. melanura*, while the present form is different and has been described by Prof. Reichenow in *Orn. Monatsb.* vol. vii. p. 8 (1899).

PITTA NOVÆ-HIBERNIÆ.

Pitta novæhibernicæ (*sic!*) Rams. See Roth. Bull. B. O. C. viii. p. vii, and *Ibis*, 1899, p. 120.

MACROPTERYX MYSTACEA (Less.) ; see Nov. Zool. iii. p. 19.
Wings 8·75 to 8·9 inches.

CACOMANTIS WEBSTERI Hartert. ('Through New Guinea,' p. 370.)

There are two specimens of the genus *Cacomantis*, which I consider do not belong to any of the previously described forms. One is probably an adult bird (sex not determined). It is metallic fuscous-grey on the upperside, more ashy on the head, more metallic brown on the wings; the tail glossy black, with small white tips; remiges dark glossy brown, with large buff spots near the bases of the outer webs. *Entire under surface uniform dark grey*, including the under wing-coverts, which show traces of rusty bars, and the under tail-coverts, which are sparsely but distinctly barred with rusty brown. "Iris and feet yellow, bill brown." Wing 120, tail 126, bill 18 mm. The other specimen, evidently a young bird in first plumage, is everywhere barred and spotted with pale rusty rufous.

ALCYONE WEBSTERI. (Plate III.)

Alcyone websteri Hartert, 'Through New Guinea,' p. 371.

A single specimen (sex unknown) of this interesting new Kingfisher was shot on February 20th, 1897. It is above greenish blue, purer and more ultramarine on the back, rump, and upper tail-coverts, as well as on the hind-neck, duller on the forehead. Loes white, with black tips to the feathers. Tail blue. Primaries and primary-coverts black, the former whitish grey towards the bases of the inner webs. Secondaries black, with wide blue edges to the outer webs. Underside white with a slight buffy tinge. Under tail-coverts deeper buff, with blue tips. Sides of breast blue, flanks striped with blue and blackish. Breast crossed by a blue band, which is slightly interrupted in the middle. On the sides of the neck a large longitudinal whitish-buff spot. Bill and feet black. Wing 62, tail 43, bill 53 mm.

EURYSTOMUS SOLOMONENSIS Sharpe.

The bright blue tail, bright blue gular patch, and red bill,



J.G. Keulemans del. et lith.

Mintern Bros imp.

ALCYONE WEBSTERI.

without distinctly black tip, leave no doubt that this is Dr. Sharpe's *E. solomonensis*. The occurrence here seems somewhat remarkable, but there are a number of forms extending from the Solomons northward to New Ireland and New Hanover.

LORIUS HYPENOCROUS DEVITTATUS Hartert. (Nov. Zool. 1898, p. 530; 'Through N. G.' p. 371, sub nom. *L. hypænochrous*.)

I have separated the birds from the D'Entrecasteaux group, Woodlark Island, New Britain, New Ireland, and New Hanover, under this name, from typical *L. hypænochrous* from the Louisiade Islands, the latter having a black bar across the under surface of the wing, while *L. h. devittatus* has not. For possible exceptions and intermediate forms see Nov. Zool. *l. c.*

TRICHOGLOSSUS FLAVICANS Cab. & Rehw.

This is probably rather a subspecies of *T. massena*, differing from the latter merely in having the red colour lighter, the green more olive. It was originally described from New Hanover, and is known also from the Admiralty and Echiquier Islands.

HYPOCHARMOSYNA SUBPLACENS (Scl.).

A well-known bird on New Ireland.

LORICULUS TENER Scl.

Two specimens of this rare bird from New Hanover. The iris is straw-colour, the bill black.

PTILINOPUS RIVOLII (Prévost & Knip).

Known from New Ireland and Duke of York Peninsula.

PTILINOPUS JOHANNIS Scl.

Known from the Admiralty Islands only. It is very interesting to find these two closely-allied Pigeons together on the same island.

PTILINOPUS INSOLITUS Schl.

Three specimens were shot on New Hanover. Also

Chalcophaps stephani, *Phlogœnas johanna*, and the inevitable *Calœnas nicobarica* were met with.

CARPOPHAGA RUBRICERA Gray.

The genus *Globicera* cannot be maintained. *Ptilinopus insolitus* differs exactly in the same way from other *Ptilinopi* as *C. rubricera* from the other *Carpophagæ*. That *P. insolitus* cannot be generically separated from the rest of the *Ptilinopi* is beautifully illustrated by *Ptilinopus granulifrons* from Obi, which differs from *P. hyogaster* almost only in its granuliform forehead. A fanatical genus-splitter would perhaps be tempted to make another genus for *P. granulifrons*, but an ornithologist taking a very broad view of "subspecies" might call *P. granulifrons* a subspecies of *P. hyogaster*. This case reminds me very much of the various forms of *Rhamphococcyx*, *Phœnicophaes*, &c., which differ in the shape of their nostrils, while they are quite or almost alike in coloration. That they cannot be put in different genera is illustrated by *Phœnicophaes microrhinus* Berl. (see Nov. Zool. ii. pp. 70-73).

MYRISTICIVORA SUBFLAVESCENS (Finsch).

Formerly known only from New Ireland.

MACROPYGGIA sp. inc.

I have not been able to come to a satisfactory conclusion respecting a long-tailed Pigeon allied to, or the same as, *M. carteretia*.

ASTUR DAMPIERI (?).

Two immature Goshawks belong probably to this species.

BAZA BISMARCKI Sharpe.

Two skins. Very closely allied to *B. reinwardti*.

NINOX VARIEGATA (Q. & G.).

Two skins of this rare Owl from New Hanover.

RALLINA TRICOLOR Gray.

Two skins from New Hanover have very short wings. With more material they might be separable subspecifically.

AMAURORNIS MOLUCCANA (Wall.).

Of this Rail, too, more material might possibly show that it differs. Two skins are rather deep slaty-grey below.

PORPHYRIO CALVUS (?ELLIOTI = NEOBRITANNICUS).

It is difficult to come to any satisfactory conclusions about the forms of *P. calvus*. See Meyer and Wigglesworth in the 'Birds of Celebes.'

EXCALFACTORIA LEPIDA Hartl.

Hitherto known only from New Britain.

MEGAPODIUS EREMITA Hartl.

New Hanover birds have been described as *M. hueskeri* by Cabanis and Reichenow, but they do not seem to differ from typical *M. eremita*.

The interest attached to this little collection of mostly large and showy birds makes the lack of knowledge of the less conspicuous forms very much felt. New Hanover would undoubtedly be a most fruitful ground for ornithological field-work.

XVIII.—*On a Collection of Birds from the vicinity of Zomba, British Central Africa, forwarded by Lieut.-Col. W. H. Manning.* By Capt. G. E. SHELLEY. *With a Note by P. L. SCLATER.*

[LIEUT.-COL. W. H. MANNING, who has been Acting-Commissioner of the Protectorate of British Central Africa during the absence of Mr. Alfred Sharpe, C.B., has not failed to continue the good work in Natural History inaugurated by his predecessors, and has forwarded to me a collection of birds, made in the vicinity of Zomba, and in the district between that and Lake Shirwa, by the Scientific Staff. The collection consists of 118 specimens, which have been examined by Capt. Shelley, and referred to 58 species. A list of the names is added, with references to the pages of Shelley's 'Birds of Africa.' All the species have been recorded in former lists of the birds from this part of Africa, except four, to which Capt. Shelley calls special attention.—P. L. S.]